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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Initial application of

: Confirmation No. 3478

Hiroshi HAMASAKA et al.

: Docket No. 2002\_0034A

Serial No. 10/046,512

: Group Art Unit 2615

Filed January 16, 2002

INFORMATION RECORDING APPARATUS  
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**

**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,

- c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstracts,
- e. ☒ the concise explanation for reference AM is set forth below:

**U.S. Patent No. 6,181,870 corresponds to JP 2000-152183.**

5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi HAMASAKA et al.

By 

Michael S. Huppert  
Registration No. 40,268  
Attorney for Applicants

MSH/kjf  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
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